

The history of the Gannet however dates far back of Martin's time, not only is there an admirable story of the Bass Rock Gannets in the 'Historia Majoris Britanniae' 1521, but mention is made of the birds in an inventory of the resources of Lundy Island in 1274 during the reign of Edward I, and the name Gannet occurs in an Anglo Saxon poem by Beowulf A. D. 597.

The name Gannet seems to come from the same source as gans, gander and goose; while 'Soland' or 'Solon Goose' is from the Icelandic 'sula-n' *i. e.*, 'the Gannet.'

Gannets now breed on a limited number of rocky, more or less inaccessible islets in the northern seas, which they have occupied from time immemorial. Lundy Island off the English coast is at present abandoned on account of the persecution of the birds. The inhabited islets are Grasholm, Wales; Bull Rock and The Skelligs, Ireland; Bass Rock, Ailsa Craig, St. Kilda Islands, Sulisgeir and The Stack of Stack and Skerry, Scotland; Mygganaes, Færøes; Sulusker, Eldey and Grimsey, Iceland; and Bird Rocks and Bonaventure, Canada. The total number of birds now living is estimated by Mr. Gurney as 101,000 (exclusive of course of the allied species of South Africa and Australia).

The accounts of the habits of the bird contain a vast amount of information from the personal observation of the author and from various other sources, while the chapters on osteology and anatomy contain extracts from probably all the published papers touching on the subject. Mr. Gurney is to be congratulated upon the successful completion of a most valuable addition to ornithological literature, while the publishers have contributed their share in producing a beautiful example of book making — admirable typography and half-tones and an attractive binding.— W. S.

**Sage and Bishop on the Birds of Connecticut.**<sup>1</sup>— Thirty-six years have passed since the appearance of the last list of Connecticut birds,— that prepared by Dr. C. Hart Merriam in 1877. Both the lapse of time and the enormous strides that have been taken in the study of American ornithology, have made it highly desirable that we should have a more modern work on the birds of the state, which would bring the knowledge of the subject up to date. It would have been difficult to pick two men better qualified for this task than the authors of the work before us and the results of their labors are quite up to our expectations.

The main part of the work consists of an annotated list of 329 species with an appendix including seven introduced species and ten of doubtful status. The data under each are based upon the collections and notes of the authors and upon information furnished them or recorded by others.

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<sup>1</sup> The Birds of Connecticut | By John Hall Sage, M. S. | Secretary of the American Ornithologists' Union | and | Louis Bennett Bishop, M. D. | Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union | assisted by | Walter Parks Bliss, M. A. | *vignette.* | Hartford. | Printed for the State Geological and Natural History Survey, | 1913. [Bulletin No. 20.] 8vo. pp. 1-370.

Mr. Bliss has tabulated and arranged much of these data and combined them into a harmonious whole.

Under summer resident species, are given a general statement of the character of occurrence and abundance; the earliest and latest record for several localities; character and location of the nest; number of eggs and average date; other nesting dates and notes on abnormal plumages, unusual occurrences, etc. Under transients are given the earliest and latest dates for both spring and fall migration, while all records are given for species which are rare or irregular. For the sake of brevity the most frequent authorities quoted for records are indicated by their initials or their last name alone, and a list of full names and initials is given at the end. This plan appeals to us as the best we have seen for bringing into convenient shape a vast amount of records. This part of the work is intended primarily for the ornithologist or student who desires to obtain facts or figures on the occurrence of any given species in Connecticut and very fittingly it is followed by a good bibliography. For the farmer, or student of live wild birds there is provided an admirable treatise on Economic Ornithology prepared entirely by Dr. Bishop and based upon his own observations and the best reports of government and state economic ornithologists. The idea of separating these two subjects as distinct parts of the report is novel and there is much to be said in its favor. The nomenclature and classification follow the A. O. U. Check-List.

The report is by no means only a list of the birds of Connecticut. Ornithologists interested in almost any special line of research will find in it matter of importance, well worth seeking for — historical accounts of the Wild Pigeon, and the early abundance of the Red-headed Woodpecker, valuable data on the parasitism of the Cowbird, as well as cases of Cuckoos' eggs in nests of other species and Barred Owl's eggs in nests of the Red-shouldered Hawk! The autumnal flights of Flickers and the former excessive shooting of these birds by gunners are described while albinos and abnormal plumages or eggs are noted under many species.

The report is in all respects a thoroughly up to date and well prepared state list and a contribution to ornithological literature of which the authors may well feel proud.— W. S.

**Tyler on Some Birds of the Fresno District California.**<sup>1</sup>— In this, the ninth publication of the Cooper Ornithological Club in the series known as 'Pacific Coast Avifauna', Mr. Tyler presents an account of the present day conditions of bird life in the vicinity of Fresno in the San Joaquin Valley.

So rapidly has this region been settled and conditions changed that a paper such as the one before us is most welcome, especially to those far re-

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<sup>1</sup> Some birds of the Fresno District, California, By John G. Tyler. Cooper Ornithological Club, Pacific Coast Avifauna Number 9, Hollywood, California, Published by the Club, October 1, 1913. Roy. 8vo. pp. 1-114.